



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 17, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: November 16, 2003
CWP WA-CW4603

Harvest Begins for Christmas Tree Growers

Field Crops

Most field activities are complete for the season, although some areas continue to harvest field corn and carrots. Winter wheat crops are looking poor throughout Columbia and Walla Walla Counties, with continued drought conditions, freezing temperatures, and high winds damaging a significant amount of the crop.

Livestock

Livestock producers continued feeding hay to compensate for very slow forage growth. The majority of cattle are on fall pastures, with some supplemental feeding. Total rainfall for the month and year are still far below normal.

Fruits and Vegetables

Some pruning of concord grapes has started, as well as pruning of tree fruit. Experts in the fruit industry are analyzing tree data to determine if the trees suffered damage due to recent freezes. Christmas tree growers have begun harvesting trees for shipments to California and other Southern markets. Some potatoes are not being harvested due to wet fields.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.9
Last Week	5.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	38	47	3
Subsoil	18	36	46	0
Irrigation Water	6	4	90	0
Hay & Roughage	0	3	95	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	0	100	0	0
Winter Wheat Emerged	97	96	95	97
Corn Harvested for Grain	90	65	65	71

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	14	60	23	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	40	60	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Agricultural activities were dominated by fairly nice weather during the major part of the week. Christmas tree growers began harvesting Noble firs for shipment to California and other Southern markets. Commercial greenhouse tomato growers removed the season's plants and planted cover crops to build soil organic matter. Commercial blueberry growers were spraying between plant rows for Canada thistle control.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: It's fall, so the color of choice must be gray. November precipitation was behind schedule, but the forecast is for that to change.

Pierce/King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. There were no unusual situations to report and no report of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/San Juan: Rain and wind occurred on November 15 and 16. There was no apparent crop damage or flooding. The weather was normal for this time of year. Some potatoes were not harvested due to wet fields.

Snohomish/North King: Heavy rains were received during the week. Little fieldwork was done due to wet soils. Pumpkins were rotting in the fields, while Christmas tree farms were gearing up for the coming harvest.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Temperatures were in the normal range most of the week. Heavy rain and windy conditions over the weekend took most of the remaining leaves off the trees. The total precipitation for the month and year is still far below normal. Leftover pumpkins have been disked into the fields. Corn mazes have been cut for livestock feed or left for the ducks. Christmas tree farms were getting ready for the fast approaching season. Reports of damage from the October floods were still being reported.

Thurston: Cool, brisk days with foggy mornings and sunny afternoons, throughout the majority of the week, provided a bonus to Christmas tree growers who began the season's harvest early in the week. Livestock producers continued feeding hay to compensate for very slow forage growth. Turfgrass growers welcomed the sunny afternoons which facilitated harvest and other agricultural practices.

Central

Benton: Temperatures have moderated. Soil moisture was low. Some pruning in concord grapes began.

Chelan: Harvest and clean up were complete. Very little activity was happening on the farms.

Douglas/Chelan: Experts in the fruit industry were analyzing tree data to determine if the trees suffered damage due to the recent freezing.

Franklin: Cold weather continued, but temperatures were warmer than the previous week. Some rain on the weekend helped soil moisture conditions. Most field activities were

complete for the season, although field corn and carrot harvest continued.

Grant: Some carrots were left to harvest. Field weed management continued as temperatures permitted.

Yakima: Tree fruit pruning was in full swing.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees above normal to 6 degrees below normal with .05" of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat will need moisture prior to freeze-up to maintain the current crop conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): The week closed with beneficial rain of about '3" or more across the county, which will benefit dryland wheat going into winter. Stubble busting activities continued in many parts of the county, and some producers with CRP seedings began to complete fall dormant seedings where cheat grass was not an issue. Those with cheat grass were hopeful that rain will initiate a flush that can be eliminated before seeding or emergence.

Asotin/Garfield: Conditions were still very dry. Rain over the past couple of days was disappointing compared to the forecast. Winter wheat conditions ranged from very poor to good, depending on the area. There was concern for the grass seed crops, as we have not received enough moisture to begin regrowth for next year's crops. Pastures and rangeland remained in poor condition due to the drought. Some producers were feeding cows earlier than normal.

Ferry/Okanogan: The majority of the cattle were on fall pastures with some supplemental feeding, while the rest were on feed. Welcomed rain was received on Sunday.

Lincoln: Precipitation prior to freeze-up is needed to maintain and/or improve current winter wheat conditions. Some crop damage occurred due to the cold temperatures, but rain with warmer days will help the crop recover.

Stevens: Temperatures warmed up to the 30's during the week. Some precipitation was received towards the weekend. Winter wheat appeared to be in average condition.

Walla Walla: Winter wheat was looking poor throughout Columbia and Walla Walla Counties. The continued drought conditions, along with freezing temperatures and high winds, damaged a significant amount of the crop. It's too early to determine the extent of the damage.

Whitman: Showers during the week improved the condition of winter wheat and should help with emergence of some acreage that was reseeded. Many livestock producers were feeding hay to supplement sparse pastures.

Whitman (2nd Report): Temperatures moderated with a few rain showers, but meaningful precipitation still remained illusive. Winter wheat stands were in need of some good rainfall before winter sets in. Most operations completed fall fieldwork.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

November 17, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	27	53	44	1	0	-7	0	0	1.13	-0.06	4	9.96	2.03	126	27
Everett	35	54	47	3	1	-6	0	0	0.88	-0.27	4	6.05	-1.66	78	27
Hoquiam	34	54	47	0	2	-5	0	0	2.04	-0.36	5	17.97	3.36	123	35
Kelso	34	57	48	3	3	-4	0	0	0.93	-0.62	2	6.44	-3.03	68	26
Olympia	29	54	44	2	2	-5	0	0	1.32	-0.59	4	13.75	3.13	129	34
Sea-Tac	35	54	47	1	1	-6	0	0	0.71	-0.66	3	10.20	2.17	127	28
Shelton	28	54	44	-2	1	-6	0	0	1.55	-0.86	5	20.74	7.46	156	37
Tacoma	28	54	44	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.94	-0.47	4	10.47	2.25	127	30
Vancouver	34	58	49	5	6	-1	0	0	0.65	-0.72	4	4.51	-3.54	56	26
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	17	52	36	-1	0	0	0	0	0.04	-0.24	1	0.39	-1.23	24	10
Omak	16	53	34	-1	0	0	0	0	0.28	-0.07	2	1.76	-0.68	72	11
Stampede Pass	28	42	34	4	0	0	0	0	5.44	2.59	5	20.35	4.39	128	32
Wenatchee	25	56	38	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.14	-0.14	1	0.62	-0.78	44	10
Yakima AP	16	58	38	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.22	0	0.30	-1.04	22	7
NORTHEAST															
Colville	19	52	36	2	0	0	0	0	0.42	-0.20	2	1.59	-2.07	43	10
Deer Park	14	48	35	-2	0	0	0	0	0.37	-0.23	4	2.91	-0.31	90	18
Spokane AP	21	46	36	0	0	0	0	0	0.31	-0.18	4	1.61	-1.14	59	17
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	20	57	39	0	0	-4	0	0	0.06	-0.16	1	0.51	-0.76	40	8
Moses Lake	17	59	38	-2	1	-3	0	0	0.07	-0.15	1	0.40	-0.87	31	8
Quincy	19	56	37	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.07	-0.21	2	0.39	-1.07	27	7
Ritzville	21	54	37	-2	0	-5	0	0	0.08	-0.28	2	0.83	-1.29	39	9
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	20	60	41	-3	3	-4	0	0	0.10	-0.11	1	0.44	-0.76	37	5
Pasco	21	64	41	-2	9	2	0	0	0.01	-0.23	1	0.50	-0.90	36	9
Pullman	27	50	39	3	0	-6	0	0	0.75	0.12	4	2.53	-1.21	68	16
Whitman Miss.	17	60	39	-4	4	-3	0	0	0.10	-0.32	3	1.70	-0.92	65	12
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	23	48	37	-3	0	0	0	0	0.25	-0.53	4	3.25	-1.17	74	16
Lewiston ID	25	60	42	1	1	-4	0	0	0.09	-0.19	1	1.39	-0.88	61	10

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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